

Amendments to the specification:

Replace paragraph [0064] with the following paragraph:

Due to the relatively high copy number of plasmids produced, plasmids of the pUC series and ~~pBS~~pUC-based plasmids, such as the pBLUESCRIPT[®] series are most preferred as vectors for the construction of the digestion monitor plasmids of the present invention. Other suitable plasmids, however, include, without limitation, other plasmids of bacterial origin, for example pBR322.